

## INITIATION RITUAL

### THE PHANTOM MASK

**NOTE:** Pledges who are to be initiated should be at the appointed place in time for all preliminary preparations. The PLEDGE MASTER will need clean cloths or handkerchiefs with which to blindfold the individuals. There should also be a LARGE candle and enough small candles for each pledge. The place of initiation should be arranged simply but neatly and without too much display. Preferably, the place of initiation should be in a radio studio. The only light burning should be the large candle in a suitable holder on a table near the center of the room. Facing the table should be arranged chairs for the pledges, with sufficient room between the chairs so that members can step from behind the chairs and lead the neophytes to a place before the table.

### THE CEREMONIES

- I. The neophytes, having all been blindfolded in an ante room, are led into the studio or place of initiation by a MEMBER and seated in the chairs which shall have been put in place previously ( as given in the notes). This may be a procession( if there are enough members present) or they may be led into place one at a time. Remember, seated behind the table on which the large candle is burning and around which are the smaller candles (unlighted) is the President of the Society.

The pledges should be led into the studio to the strains of suitable music---that is music that has dramatic qualities.

After all the pledges have been seated, facing the President of the Society...the music may continue for several moments or until some suitable stopping place is at hand. But it should not run more than one minute.

- II. After a moment of silence, once the music has ended, there is a crash of a gong and the VOICE OF THE PHANTOM MASK speaks:

THIS is the PHANTOM MASK. Ever watchful...ever present, we have observed your interest in and the services you have rendered to the cause of RADIO AND RADIO DRAMA... either as an actor, writer, or producer. Your peers have deemed you worthy of honorable recognition. You have been elected to full membership...after proving yourself worthy and serving a term of pledgship to this society. It remains now only for this ceremony before you enter into all the duties and responsibilities pertaining to membership in THE PHANTOM MASK.

You are within the four walls of a broadcasting studio....around you are the implements of the profession and business in which you have manifested more than a cursory interest. As actors, writers and producers in radio drama, you were led into the studio blindfolded but assisted to your place of honor in our midst by a strong, helping hand. This was done, primarily, to teach you the all-important

II.(cont) lesson of HUMILITY. That as actors, writers and producers, you must lean heavily on the arms of others in your chosen field of interest in order to achieve greatness. You--the actor--would be speechless without the words of the writer and the discerning ear and showmanship of the producer; you--the writer--would be mute if you had not the voice of the actor to translate your cold words into living, breathing emotions; you--the producer--would be nil without the writer and actor who supply you with the materials with which you work. This then is your first lesson to be learned---that of HUMILITY and the understanding of the help of others, whereby, in your mutual efforts you bring to the uninitiated the beauties of drama through the medium of radio.

You are blindfolded now to impress upon you the horror of being in darkness--the darkness of bloated egotism and self-satisfaction. Radio is a new thing--the youngest of the arts. But in its youth there are certain advantages. New and greater horizons are being opened up daily within it to those who have eyes to see and minds to comprehend. You must not allow your talent and thinking to become stagnant and satisfied with what is already within your grasp. You must continually seek out those things which will add to your storehouse of knowledge about radio and radio drama in particular. Without this attitude, you will continue in utter darkness as you now are.

You are to be reminded of still another virtue you must cultivate as a member of THE PHANTOM MASK-----LOYALTY. Loyalty to those in authority over you...loyalty to the society which has as its prime purpose the promotion of an interest in Radio Drama. As your names are called...you will be led to a place before the eternal light.

( AT THIS POINT, THE VOICE CALLS SLOWLY--ALLOWING PLENTY OF TIME BETWEEN EACH NAME - THE NAMES OF THE PLRIGES. THEY MUST BE LED BEFORE THE TABLE ON WHICH IS THE LIGHT BY A MEMBER OR MEMBERS. AFTER ALL ARE IN PLACE, THE CEREMONIES CONTINUE)

**III. (NOTE: The President of the Society Speaks now)**

You now stand before the eternal light which has been burning for more than three thousand years. That light represents the THEATRE---from the days of the ancient Greeks to the modern times. Radio Drama is only a new form for that which has been man's greatest source of entertainment and enjoyment during the ages.

When you were pledged to THE PHANTOM MASK, there was pinned on you the colors of our society---BLACK ON SILVER. The black is symbolic of the darkness you now are in....the ignorance of things pertaining to radio drama before you willed to set out on the long journey towards the goal of your achievements therein....the silver symbolizes the rare honor which will be yours when you have attained that goal in your chosen interest of life.

I shall ask you several questions: What are the colors of PHANTOM MASK. Your answer is: "Black on Silver". What is the Phantom Mask? Your answer: THE PHANTOM Mask is an honorary radio society dedicated to the promotion and advancement of radio drama".

Repeat after me, using your own name: I \_\_\_\_\_ do solemnly promise that I will do everything in my power to advance the work of radio drama in the University of Oklahoma and wherever I may happen to be. That I will faithfully support the society known as THE PHANTOM MASK, attend upon its ordinances, support it financially and attend its meetings; that I will so conduct myself as to be a living example of an individual who is dedicated to the art of the drama so far as it is found in radio.

**IV. (NOTE: At this point the blindfolds are removed) The President continues:**

This light which you see before you also represents the light of united effort for Phantom Mask. On the table you will find small candles which represent your own contribution to radio drama. As you light your small candle at the flame of

IV (CONT) of THE PHANTOM MASK, you receive from it both inspiration and aid for your individual needs. The light of the PHANTOM MASK burns brightly and is a beacon to the world of our ideals and achievements. By placing your small candle at the base of the larger flame, you add to its light and at the same time indicate your willingness and desire to further the aims of THE PHANTOM MASK. If you are in complete accord with our ideals, light your candles and place it at the base of the PHANTOM MASK FLAME.

NOTE: AFTER THIS HAS BEEN DONE BY EACH ONE. THEN THE PRESIDENT SAYS

You are now members of THE PHANTOM MASK. We welcome you to our society. ~~congratulations~~  
congratulations!